

Level 1

# Flight with Birdy



This book belongs to




# Flight with Birdy



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“Why do you cook the same food everyday, Ramdin bhaiya? I hate it!” shouted Priyam. She ran out with Jiffy into the garden. Priyam loved playing hide-and-seek with Jiffy. But today she was angry and also a bit sleepy. She lay quietly under the litchi tree.

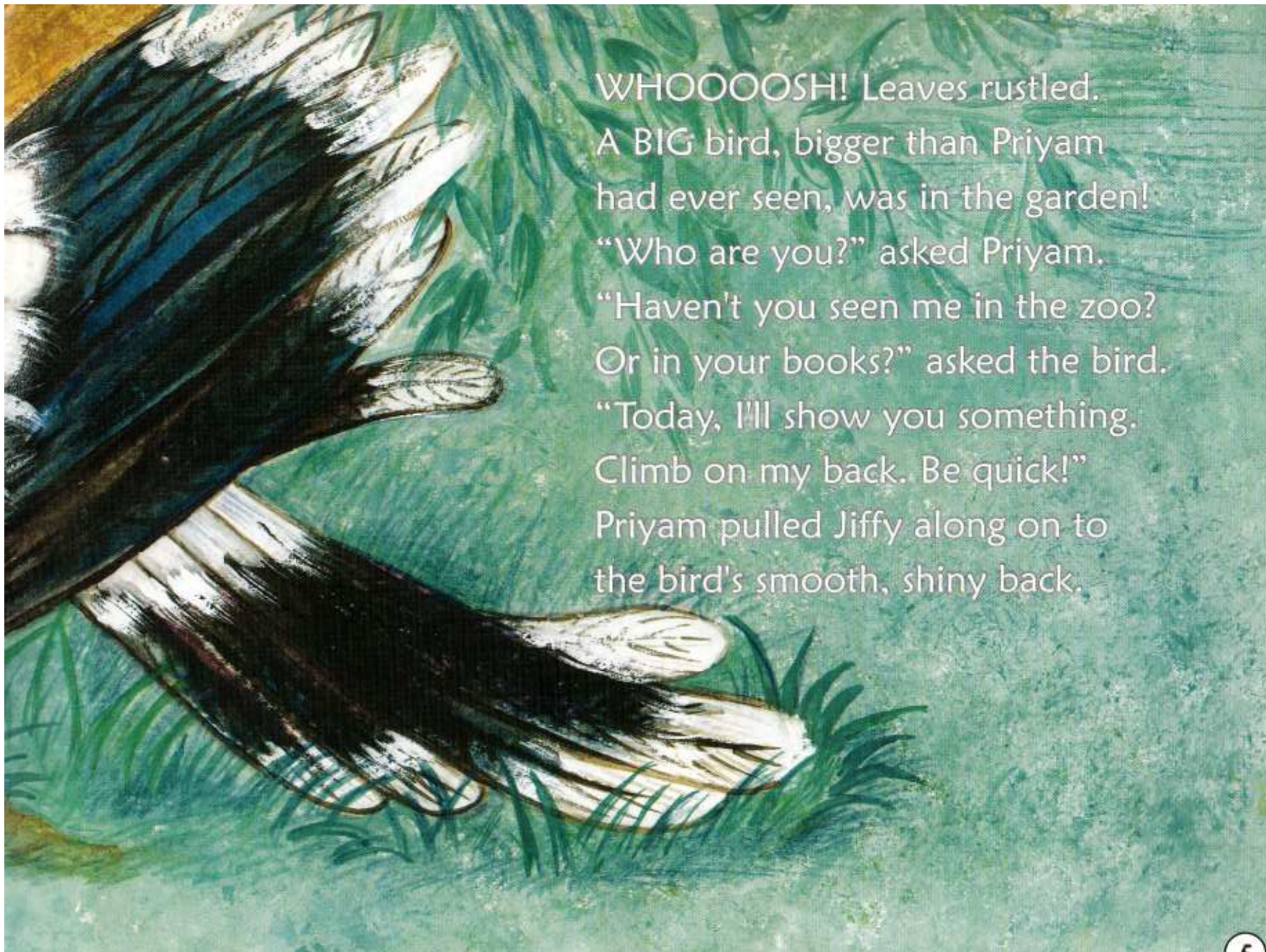






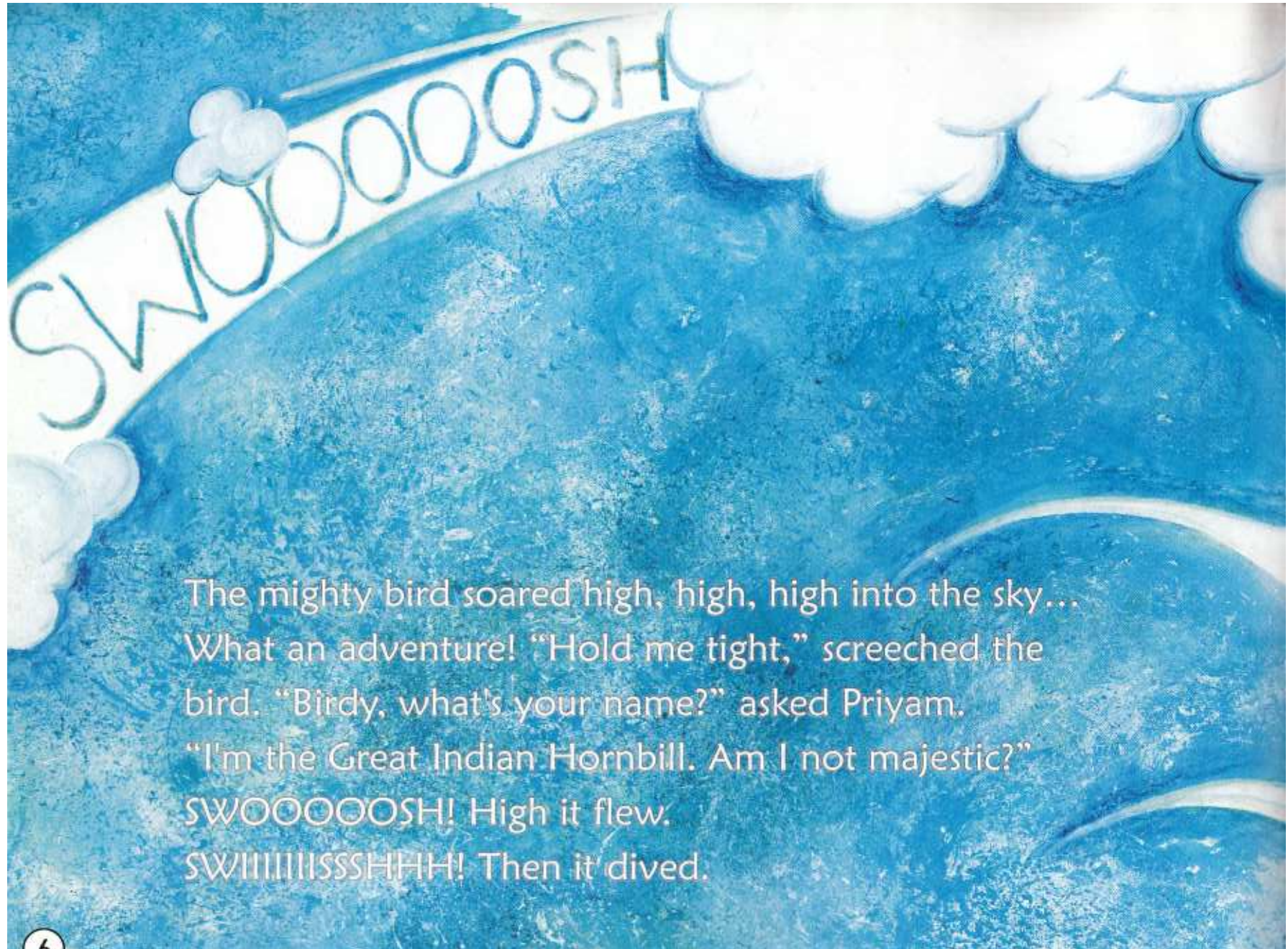






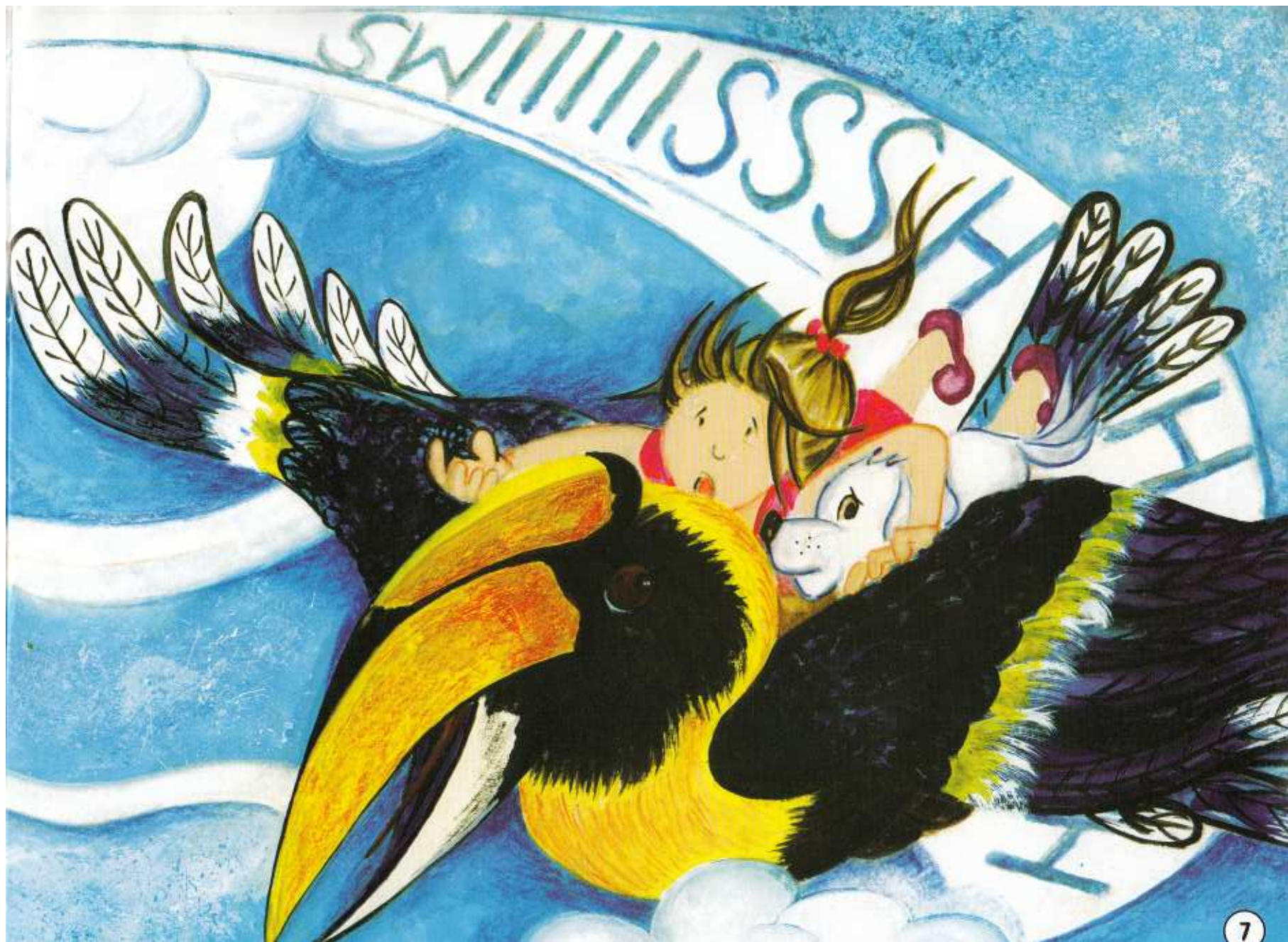
WHOOOOOSH! Leaves rustled.  
A BIG bird, bigger than Priyam  
had ever seen, was in the garden!  
“Who are you?” asked Priyam.  
“Haven't you seen me in the zoo?  
Or in your books?” asked the bird.  
“Today, I'll show you something.  
Climb on my back. Be quick!”  
Priyam pulled Jiffy along on to  
the bird's smooth, shiny back.



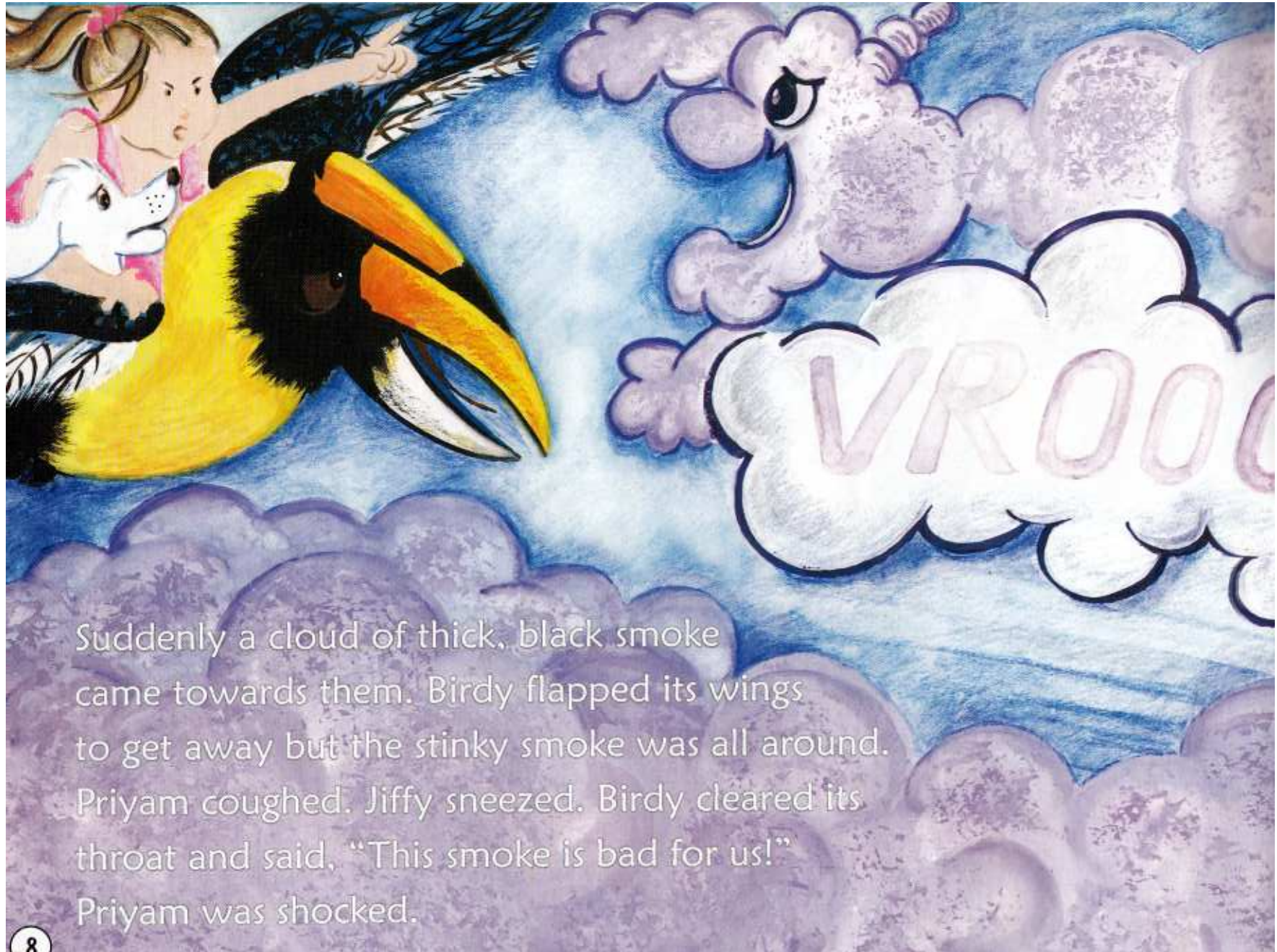


The mighty bird soared high, high, high into the sky...  
What an adventure! "Hold me tight," screeched the  
bird. "Birdy, what's your name?" asked Priyam.  
"I'm the Great Indian Hornbill. Am I not majestic?"  
SWOOOOOSH! High it flew.  
SWIIIIIISSSHHH! Then it dived.









Suddenly a cloud of thick, black smoke came towards them. Birdy flapped its wings to get away but the stinky smoke was all around. Priyam coughed. Jiffy sneezed. Birdy cleared its throat and said, "This smoke is bad for us!" Priyam was shocked.

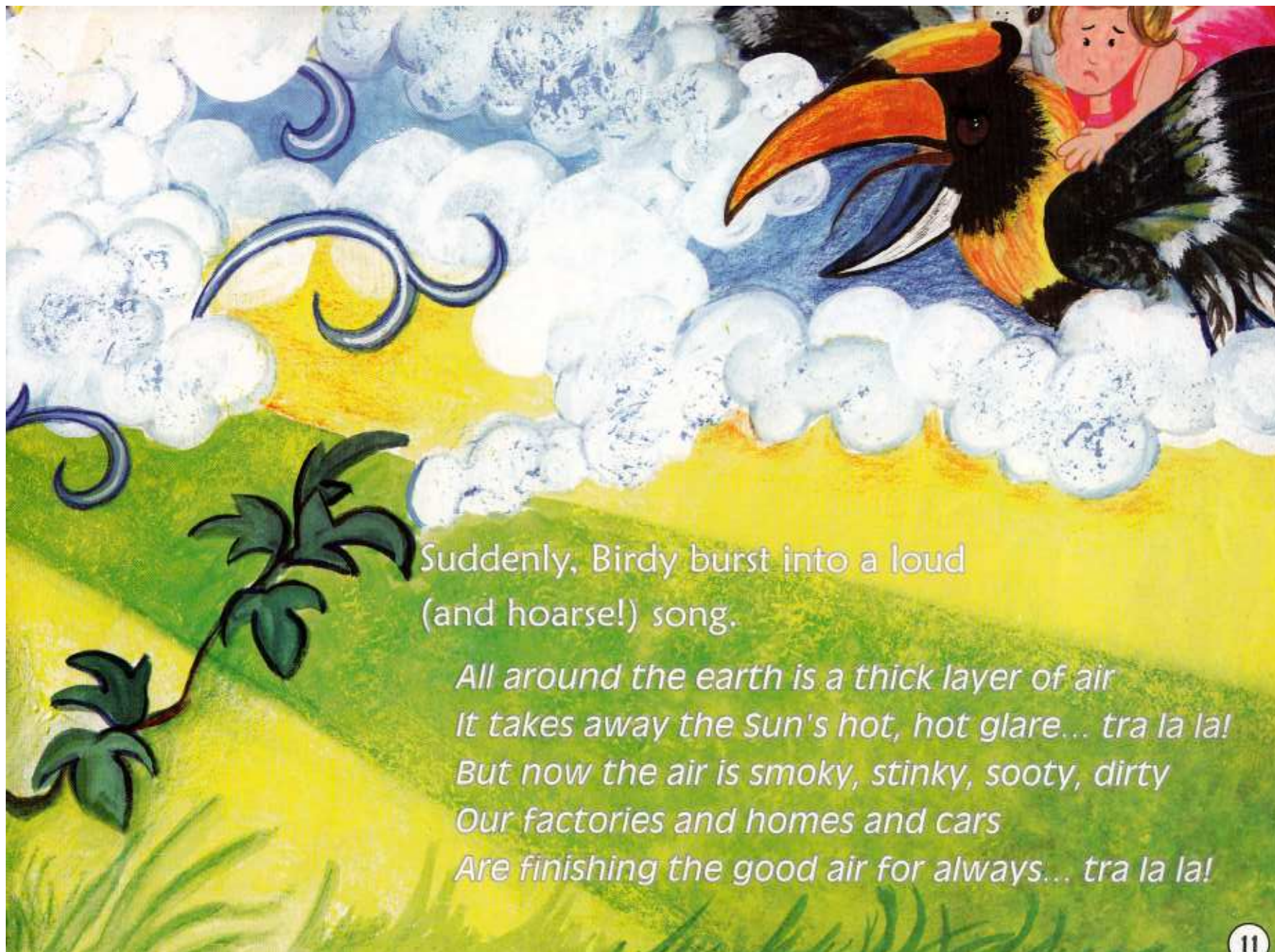












Suddenly, Birdy burst into a loud  
(and hoarse!) song.

*All around the earth is a thick layer of air  
It takes away the Sun's hot, hot glare... tra la la!  
But now the air is smoky, stinky, sooty, dirty  
Our factories and homes and cars  
Are finishing the good air for always... tra la la!*





Birdy coughed and said,  
“The air gets thin and the  
earth gets very hot and the  
plants and animals get very  
sick!” Taking a deep dive,  
it said, “Look, that used to be  
the grand River Tanabana.  
But now it has no water!  
What will the people and  
animals drink?” Priyam said,  
“Can't the water come from  
the snow in the mountains?”









So, Birdy again soared up, over lofty mountains. Priyam's teeth chattered with the cold. Birdy said, "Mountains have lots of ice in winter. In summer, it melts into the rivers. But now, too much water is coming down at one time. It floods the villages and towns on the riverbank. But the ones further down have no water!"

Priyam wondered why. "Because of dirty air, of course!" said Birdy.

But where were those villagers going?

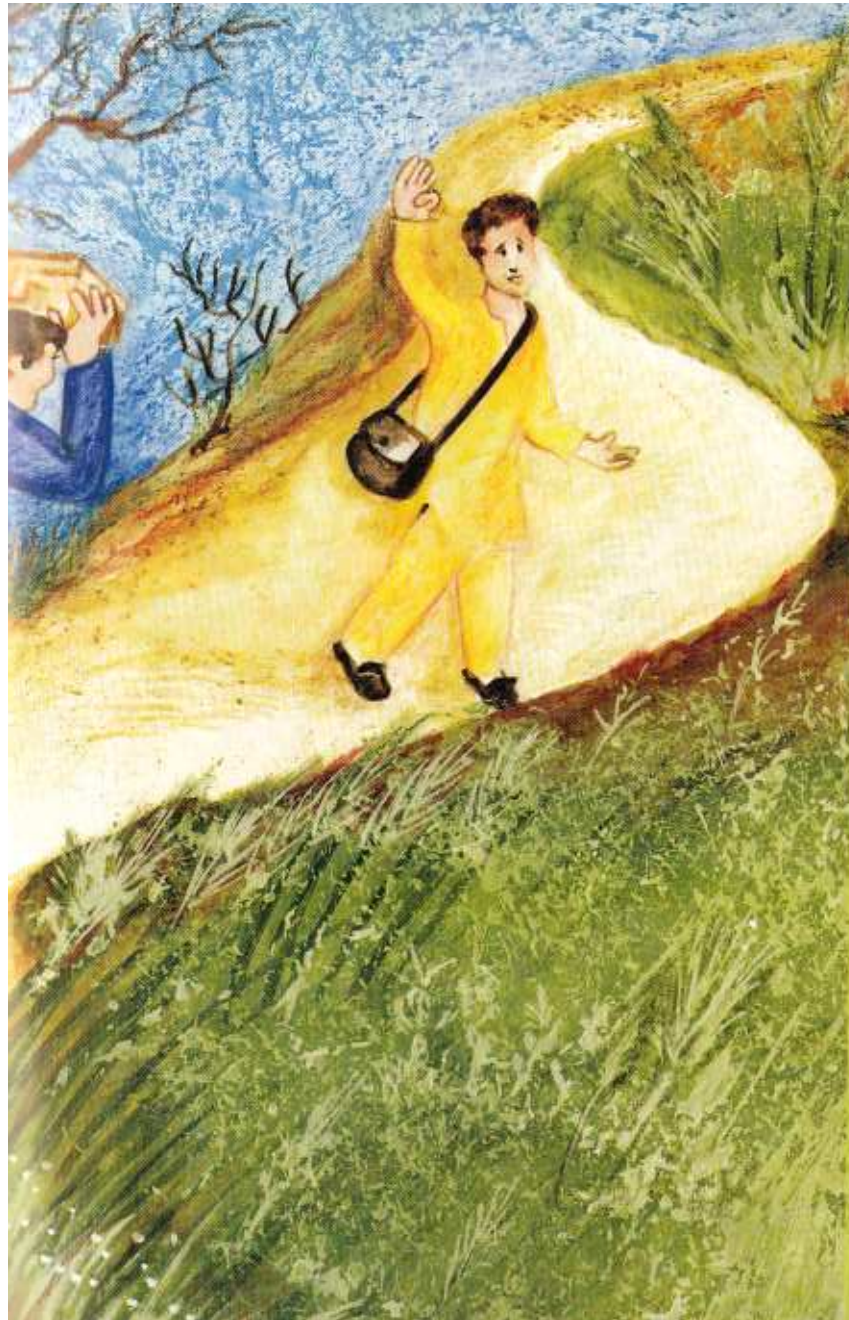










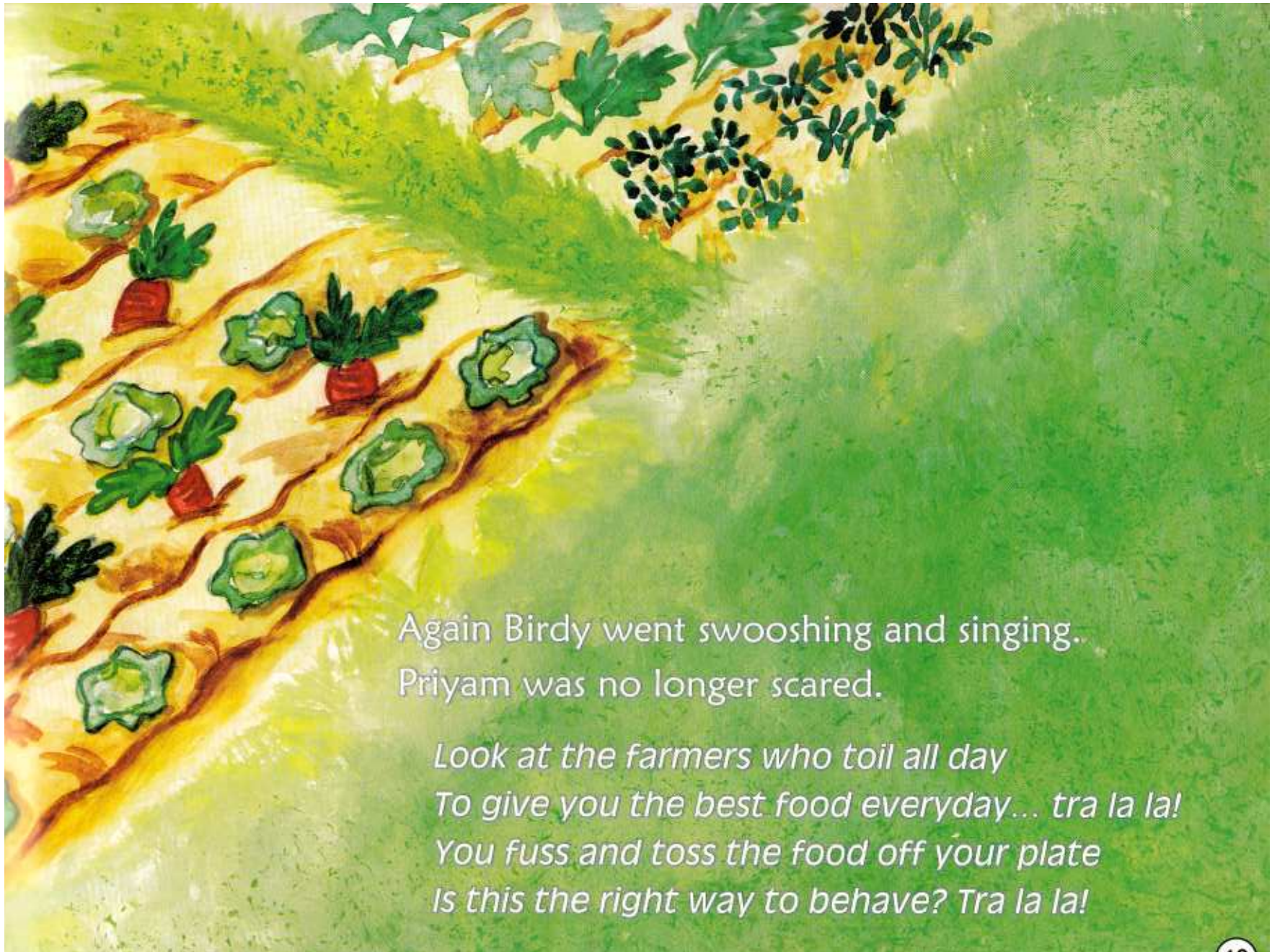


Birdy said, “They are leaving their villages to go to places where they will get food and water and work. They work in houses, markets, factories, offices... They become drivers, cooks, postmen, grocers...” Priyam remembered how Ramdin bhaiya had come to the city because there was no food in his village!









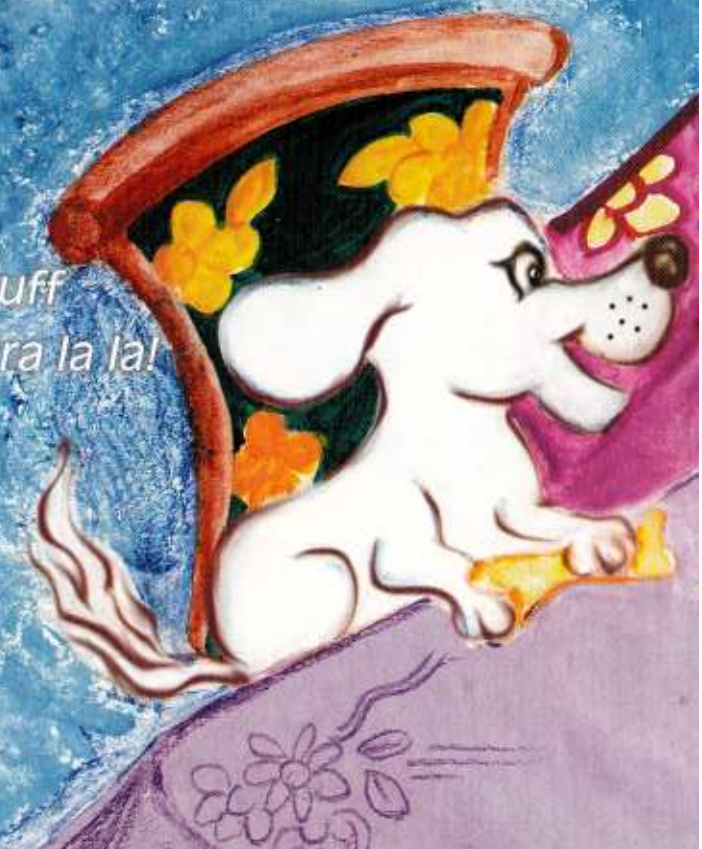
Again Birdy went swooshing and singing.  
Priyam was no longer scared.

*Look at the farmers who toil all day  
To give you the best food everyday... tra la la!  
You fuss and toss the food off your plate  
Is this the right way to behave? Tra la la!*



Priyam opened her eyes. She and Jiffy were in the garden! Was Birdy a dream? She ran to the kitchen. "Ramdin bhaiya, please give me some food!" Ramdin was surprised! Priyam could hear someone humming. Was it Birdy?

*Don't waste water, don't dirty the air!  
Don't fuss over food, it's not fair!  
Don't buy too much, don't throw away stuff  
Think about others whose life is tough... tra la la!  
When you need help  
Come to this book  
Birdy's here to share  
Your thoughts, your dreams...  
tra la la laaaaaaaa!*











## The spectacular Great

This giant bird comes from India (and some other Asian countries), has a large beak and is GREAT! It can be 4 feet tall, with a wingspan just as wide. The male's enormous yellow beak has a large projection on top, called a casque. It may support the beak or help make the hornbill's loud call sound even louder!

The hornbill loves fruit but eats insects, lizards, and smaller birds too. But it's tough eating with such a big beak! Imagine eating a burger through a long tube stuck in front of your mouth! The clever hornbill lifts its head back to move food from the beak into the throat or crushes the food in the beak before swallowing.



# Indian Hornbill

But this bird is endangered! People hunt it to eat it or use its feathers for decoration or its beak and blood for making medicines. Its habitat is being destroyed to make houses. If the hornbill is not taken care of, it might become extinct!

Can you find out the names and homes of other kinds of hornbills? Can you find out if they are safe or endangered? Ask your parents, older brother or sister or teachers to help you find out from an encyclopaedia or the Internet. Or you could watch a wildlife television channel!



## Watch your waste!

Priyam had no idea that she caused so much trouble by wasting food. We too waste many things at home, in school, in restaurants—paper, money, time! Can you make a list? Perhaps you can also use the list to write a short story or poem about how wrong it is to waste things that nature or our parents give to us with great love.



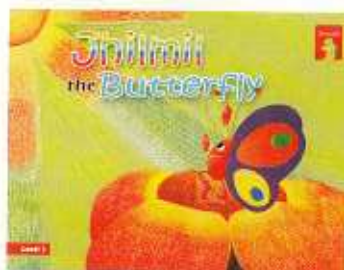
We know that the music-loving, earth-loving Birdy in this story is a Great Indian Hornbill. It is a really colourful bird, with a large yellow beak. Can you join the dots here to complete your very own picture of a hornbill? And then, you can colour it in!

HAVE  
FUN!





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**The Tree Party**

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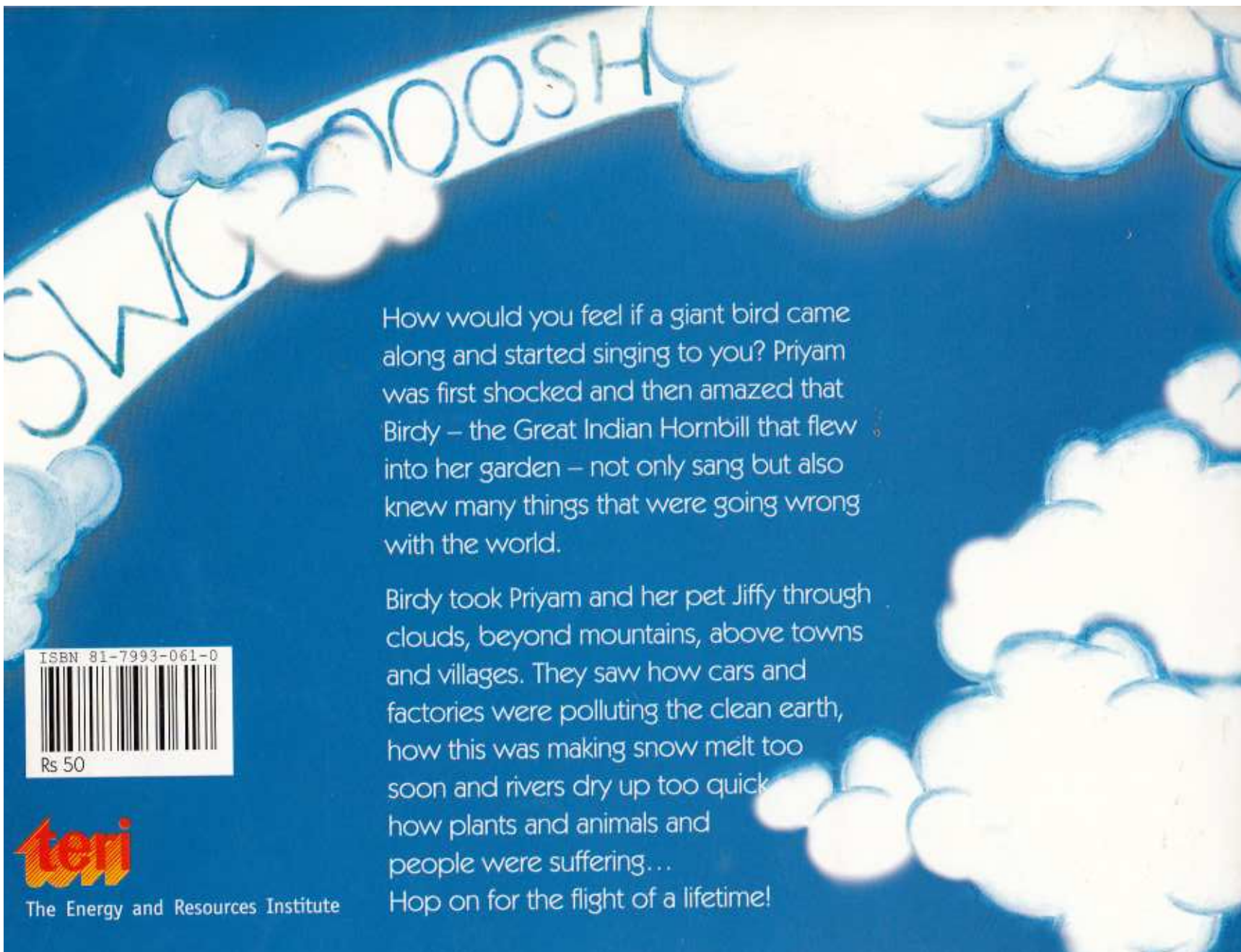
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Level 1 books are developed for children aged 4 to 7 years, keeping in mind their awareness, curiosity, and vocabulary levels.  
Parents can read them aloud to the younger children and encourage the older children to read on their own.





How would you feel if a giant bird came along and started singing to you? Priyam was first shocked and then amazed that Birdy – the Great Indian Hornbill that flew into her garden – not only sang but also knew many things that were going wrong with the world.

Birdy took Priyam and her pet Jiffy through clouds, beyond mountains, above towns and villages. They saw how cars and factories were polluting the clean earth, how this was making snow melt too soon and rivers dry up too quick, how plants and animals and people were suffering...

Hop on for the flight of a lifetime!

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